

An emotional parting

17 May 2021

Vocabulary

Brusque: quick and rude in manner or speech.

To broach: to begin a discussion of something difficult.

Actiq: a fentanyl brand name. Comes as a lozenge on a plastic stick administered under the tongue like a lollipop.

Caught my eye: Something got my attention.

Alliteration: the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

Tongue-twister: a sequence of words or sounds, typically of an alliterative kind, that are difficult to

pronounce quickly and correctly.

To frown: furrow one's brows in an expression indicating disapproval, displeasure, or concentration.

To squirm: wriggle or twist the body from side to side, especially as a result of nervousness or discomfort.

Peck: (of a bird) bite something with its beak.

Pickle: a relish consisting of vegetables or fruit preserved in vinegar or brine.

Nosy: (informal) Given to or showing an intrusive curiosity about the affairs of others.

Listen here: <https://englishchampions.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/HalleRiser-and-TerryTufty.mp3>

Terry realized that Halle could have a serious problem. But what should he do? He knew that the theft of controlled medications could end Halle's promising medical career. He also knew if Halle really was abusing fentanyl, she could die of an overdose. On the other hand, falsely accusing Halle could result in the end of their relationship.

It was time to broach the subject. Terry leaned across the table and said, in a serious voice: "Halle, do you have time for a quick walk before you head back to the hospital?"

"Okay, but not too long, as I really must get going." She said stiffly.

Halle and Terry walked outside the *San Soo Gab San* restaurant and turned left on N. Western Ave.

"Halle its been so nice seeing you this weekend, but I have noticed that you don't seem your normal self."

Halle frowned.

Terry continued: "Its just that last night after we had that wonderful meal and we were on the beach, something in your purse caught my eye. I saw a box of a medicine called *Actiq*. I didn't know what it was until I looked on the web this morning while I was waiting to leave."

"I don't want to be nosy but I, err, I wondered why it was there? Do you have a problem you have not told me about? Are you taking fentanyl for something?"

Halle stopped walking. Her eyes were bulging and she looked like fire would begin to come out of her mouth. She started speaking in a quiet voice that became louder and more angry with each word.

"Do you know what? Its non of your business. How dare you? I thought you had some respect for me. If I had some ongoing serious medical issue don't you think I would tell you?"

Terry was beginning to squirm.

Halle continued, her voice rising: "Oh, I get it. I get it.You think that I am abusing fentanyl don't you? Do you have any idea what a stupid idea that is? Do you realize that that's a terrible accusation?"

Terry was feeling very small and blurted out, weakly: "But I thought I had better make sure."

"Do you have any idea how physically and emotionally stressful my job is? You don't realize that I'm

not sleeping and there's a lot of stress and you're accusing me. I thought you were my one friend who could come and make my life so much easier. You obviously have no confidence in me. Why don't you go back to Washington and forget all about us!"

Halle continued "I'm sorry I'm gonna get out of here. I can't cope with this."

Halle hailed a cab, got in without even glancing behind her, and two minutes later she had left.

Terry stood motionless for several minutes, completely deflated. He wondered if he would ever see Halle Riser again.

Questions for discussion

1. Do you think Terry did a good job of speaking to Halle? What did he do wrong?
2. Has Terry successfully dealt with the situation? Why or why not?
3. Would this be a good time to talk to Halle's brother? If so, why?
4. If you were Terry what would you do next?

The alliteration tongue-twister challenge

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked.

If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,

Where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?

	mai	juin
Intermédiaire / avancé lundi	10 (Zoom), 17 (Zoom), 31	7, 14, 21

The classes on the 10th and 14th of May will take place on Zoom between 20h30 and 21h30. The classes on the 31st May, and on the 7th, 14th and 21st June will take place at 88 rue de la Tourlourrette between 19h45 and 20h45.